



House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

JIM TURNER, Ranking Member

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2004

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CUTS TO HOMELAND SECURITY A “SERIOUS MISTAKE”

Democrats Call for Down-payment on Rail Safety

In a letter sent today to Chairman of the House Budget Committee Jim Nussle, Congressman Jim Turner and other members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security called on House Republicans to reverse cuts to homeland security in their proposed budget.

The letter states:

“Even though the President has consistently and properly stated that our country is at war against terrorist groups, your budget proposed to cut \$150 million in homeland security spending for fiscal year 2005, and \$857 million over the next five years from the President’s own budget request. We call on you to reverse these cuts and correct the many deficiencies in the President’s homeland security budget that continue to leave America unnecessarily vulnerable to a terrorist attack.”

“It is a serious mistake to shortchange vital homeland security programs and fail to close the security gaps that are leaving the country vulnerable to terrorist attack.”

“One glaring deficiency is the Administration’s timid efforts to increase the security of our transit and passenger rail systems – the vulnerability most recently exploited in Spain. We call on you to include a down payment of at least \$250 million (five times the homeland security grants provided in 2004) to begin the process of providing adequate security to the millions of Americans that use our transit and passenger rail systems daily.

Jim Turner issued the following statement in response to the Republican budget: “The Republicans appear to have forgotten that we are at war against terrorists. Cutting the homeland security budget \$155 million below the President’s request is the wrong thing to do when the safety of the American people are at risk.”

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